

**Harpswell Conservation Commission
Minutes for meeting of June 1, 2010
Municipal Office Bldg., Harpswell, Maine**

Members present: Deirdre Strachan, Burr Taylor, Anne Perry, Ann Nemrow, Carol Tukey, Town planner. **Absent:** Mary Ann Nahf, Donald Jones, Tony Barrett, Sue Vachon

There being a quorum, meeting called to order by D. Strachan (acting chair) at 3:05pm.

Minutes of May 18th Meeting: Moved by B Taylor, seconded by A. Nemrow. Unanimous. M. Nahf and A. Perry edits to be added prior to submission to Town staff

Member Announcements:

Selectmen's Meeting, Thursday, June 3 at 6:30 pm. Presentation *Wooley Adelgid* by Allison Kanotti (to be broadcast later). Possible HCC role - monitoring the progression of this hemlock invasion and/or educating residents via website. Public access to Cedar Beach's ROW will also be announced by the Selectmen

Bath Planning Board Meeting, Thursday, June 3: Consideration given to form a Town Conservation Commission. D. Strachan, to attend on behalf of HCC and provide data relating to history, mission statement, current activities, HCC web sites and a summary of The Open Space Plan

Old Business:

1. Selectmen's Workshop Meeting, May 19th. D. Strachan presented ways for financing land and/or easement acquisition, funded by the Town (bonding, appropriations or formation of Conservation fund), by State and federal sources under existing programs and by private sources from trusts, foundation grants and public donors (Discussion points raised by C. Tukey: Selectmen need criteria for evaluating a generic property prior to floating a bond such as...

- Location within a focus area
- Define water bodies
- Support endangered species
- High rating natural resources

Refer to **Open Space Plan**, Appendix 12 *Methodology for Assessing Open Space*, Appendix 16 *Focus Areas*

Burr to submit a copy of Falmouth's CC list of criteria used to acquire land by a Town Bond to HCC for future discussion

Burr Question – Any land within a focus area we do not want?

2. 200 Yardscaping Brochures: Available for distribution to July Non-Resident Town meeting and Harpswell Festival at Mitchell Field July 24

3. Open Space Definition: Refer to **Open Space Plan**, Appendix 19 *Land Use Ordinance Recommendation to the Town*. Submitted by Chair to Board of Selectmen for inclusion into Harpswell's Ordinance Addendum at their next Town meeting. C Tukey will spearhead this through

Ongoing Business:

1. Mission Statement Action for Areas 2010-11 to Define and Implement:

A. Conservation Education:

Discussion pertaining to an **Education fund** made available to HCC for implementing projects. At C Tukey's suggestion, projects and specific expenses need to be defined within a time frame and presented to her prior to the Sept. Selectmen's meeting. Such expenses might include mailings, printed matter, brochures etc oriented to specific projects

Burr Taylor's list for education action was discussed and divided into 3 categories

Topics:

- Save Our Bay (SOB) Cease weed/feed applications -outreach
- Otterbrook – meetings/discussions with owners – wetland preservation

Materials... Tools to get things done

- Q and A Brochure
- Display Backdrop for events
- Bookmark and SOB card handouts
- Event Promotions via mail/media
- Highlight and update HCC web sites.
- Form bibliographies under relevant topics

Audiences

- Residents, non-residents
- School children, science teachers, boy scouts
- Function attendees eg Festivals, parades, Town meetings, recycling depot
- TV watchers and Newspaper and Town Bulletin readers
- Attendees at farmer's markets and similar events

B. Town Lands/Cliff Trail Project.

Background: CPIC is presently reviewing "Village Areas" within the Town District to determine land suitable for building. At the same time HCC seeks to determine land with high natural resources that is ecologically fragile and worth preserving within the same area. With Town approval to undergo a land survey of the five lots, D. Strachan will now ask Rob Bryan, ecologist/forester, what the scope of such work entails, an estimate of cost and possible sources of grant funding. Another possible survey contact is Steve Walker, natural resource planner.

C. Conservation Funding:

Discussion: Town's Bond expirations 2011 with possibility of a new bond for land acquisition. Contact MEACC bonding person for details relating to 20% matching funds.

D. Strachan to talk with Town Selectmen before Sept. 2010 in this regard.

New Business:

Burr Taylor suggested that the Hildreth Rd. town property might be a good location for a Yardscaping project similar to the 'Green Garden,' a detention area established along Back Cove in Portland ME. This project highlights native plant species and mitigates toxic storm water and non-point runoff into the polluted tidal cove.

Summer Meetings: 6/15, 7/20, 8/03, 8/17

Scribes: For A. Perry to fill out

Adjourned at 4:55pm

A. Nemrow, acting sec'y.